

COVID-19 Update

January 13: PPE Update, CDC Recommends Shortened Interval for Moderna Booster, Use of Ivermectin, NM COVID-19 Updates

Today's issue features an update on the use of N95 respirator masks, as well as information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the shortened interval for the Moderna vaccine. It also includes information about the use of ivermectin and where to find COVID-19 updates.

PPE UPDATE

Personal protective equipment (PPE) remains highly effective in protecting staff and patients from COVID-19. To standardize and simplify PPE guidelines, N95 respirators must be worn when caring for any patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, even in the absence of aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs). This expanded use will help ensure physicians and caregivers wear masks with a secure fit, and will eliminate the need to track turnover times for rooms where patients who are COVID-19-positive have received an AGP.

View the [Anatomy of PPE](#) guide.

When caring for a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19:

- Physicians and staff should wear an N95 respirator in all patient care settings.
- Physicians and staff may wear the same N95 respirator to care for multiple patients. Refer to [Guidelines for Safe Use, Reuse and Extended Use of PPE](#).
- Airborne infectious isolation (All) rooms are not required.

CDC RECOMMENDS SHORTENED INTERVAL FOR MODERNA BOOSTER

On January 7, the CDC adjusted its [recommendation](#) for when people ages 18 and over can receive a Moderna vaccine booster dose, shortening the interval from six months to five months. Earlier last week, the CDC recommended the same shortened interval for a booster of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for individuals ages 12 and over.

The revised recommendations regarding boosters based on primary vaccination series are as follows:

- **Pfizer vaccine:** People ages 12 and older who have received two doses of the Pfizer vaccine should receive a booster a minimum of **five months after the last dose**.
- **Moderna vaccine:** People ages 18 or older who have received two doses of the Moderna vaccine should receive a booster a minimum of **five months after the last dose**.

- **Johnson & Johnson vaccine:** People ages 18 or older who have received one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should get a booster of an mRNA vaccine a minimum of **two months after the last dose**.

The **FDA Booster Infographic**, which may be printed and posted, can help determine who is eligible to receive a booster and when. For more information about vaccination and boosters, please visit the **COVID-19 Vaccines for People Age 12 and Older** page on nm.org.

USE OF IVERMECTIN

NM medical leadership has carefully reviewed the clinical studies, guidance from government agencies, and recommendations from professional societies regarding the safety and efficacy of ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19. Based on that review, NM will not administer ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19 to patients admitted to NM hospitals. NM also prohibits the use of patient-supplied ivermectin or ivermectin from any outside source for the treatment of COVID-19. This policy does not prohibit ivermectin for its FDA-approved uses or for its use in any IRB-approved study.

If patients or family members request ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19, please inform them that NM policy prohibits such treatment because it is not safe and effective for the treatment of COVID-19.

NM BY THE NUMBERS

Across the health system, 775 patients are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, with 100 of those patients being treated in an NM ICU. The rate of patients testing positive remains at 34%. Data is being updated Monday, Wednesday and Friday on the **By The Numbers** page on NMI (login required).

For local operational updates from hospital leaders, please visit the **Local Updates** page on NMI (login required). Most updates are provided weekly.

Current data from NM indicates that virtually all patients with SARS-CoV-2 are infected with the omicron variant. Since this variant remains highly contagious, please continue to remind patients about the importance of adhering to public health guidelines. In addition, vaccinations and boosters remain key to reducing the risk of severe illness and death, as well as protecting those who cannot be vaccinated.



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